

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action mailed 10/22/08 which included an indication of allowable subject matter.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, Claims 2, 8-11, 13-16, 18, 29-36, 46, 48-55 were pending and under consideration. With this Amendment, Claims 18, 29-36, 51 and 54-55 have been canceled without prejudice to their reintroduction into this or one or more timely-filed related applications. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 2, 8-11, 13-16, 46, 48-50, 52 and 53 are pending and under consideration.

Double Patenting

Claims 48 and 51 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 for alleged double patenting. Claim 51 has been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Amendments of the Claims

Support for the present amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 18 and 54-55 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is rendered moot owing to the cancellation of these claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 29-30, 32, and 36 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Loeffler (US 6,673,620). Without in any way agreeing with the position of the Office, and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has canceled these claims, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Takeuchi (US 4,738,824). Without in any way agreeing with the position of the Office, and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has canceled these claims, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the pending claims satisfy all of the statutory requirements for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early notification of the same is kindly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By /John F. Brady, Reg. No. 39,118/
John F. Brady

IP Administration

Agilent Technologies, Inc.
Legal Department, DL-429
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

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Phone: (408) 553-3584